



## Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site & Monument Commission

Virtual Meeting  
August 6, 2020 4:00 P.M.  
MINUTES

### AUGUST 6, 2020 SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Members Present: Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chair  
Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chairman  
Thomas Gensheimer  
Sean Mannion  
Lisa Watson

Staff Present: Leah Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation  
Ryan Jarles, Historic Planner  
Olivia Arfuso, Assistant Planner  
Aislinn Droski, Assistant Planner  
Pamela Everett, Assistant Executive Director  
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant

#### I. Call to Order and Welcome

##### [1. Introduce New Staff](#)

**Olivia Arfuso** and **Aislinn Droski** were introduced as new staff members.

#### II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

##### [2. Approve Meeting Minutes from June 4, 2020 Regular Meeting](#)

[📎 06.04.20 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

#### **Motion**

Approve

#### **Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

### [3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 18, 2020 Special-Called Meeting](#)

[06.18.20 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ConfedMon.pdf](#)

#### **Motion**

Approve

#### **Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Sean Mannion

Second: Kristopher Monroe

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

### **III. Regular Agenda**

#### [4. David Nation and Michaela Shank | 20-003255-PA | 435 East 50th Street | After-the-fact Mural](#)

[App 435 E 50th 20-003255-PA.pdf](#)

[Staff Rec - 435 E 50th St 20-003255.pdf](#)

[AERIAL MAP 20-003255-PA.pdf](#)

[Compiled Public Comment \(1\).pdf](#)

**Mr. Ryan Jarles** presented the applicant's request for an after-the-fact approval for the installation of a mural on the lane facing façade of a garage located at 435 East 50th Street. The after-the-fact mural is painted onto a wooden horizontal lap siding and is located within the Ardsley Park – Chatham Crescent Conservation District. The theme of the after-the-fact mural, titled “Color Rain”, is described by the applicant as being an “important reminder of the innocence and lack of corruption in children.” The after-the-fact mural complies with the Georgia obscenity laws. The mural does not advertise any illegal activities under the laws of Georgia or the United States.

The after-the-fact mural is located on a previously painted wood sided garage. The mural is located within a lane predominantly filled with non-historic garages and other various outbuildings; this creates a rather visually uninteresting gravel lane. The inclusion of this mural upon the lane facing façade of the single-story garage creates a visual interest to this space that compliments the neighborhood and enhances the lane. The mural is located on private property within the Ardsley Park - Chatham Crescent Conservation District. The mural is located on a lane facing façade of a non-arterial roadway and will not cause undue distraction to drivers. The inclusion of this mural upon the lane facing façade of the single-story garage creates a visual interest to this space that compliments the neighborhood and enhances the lane.

The mural is located within a predominantly residential portion of the City; however, the property is within the RSF-5 zoning district. The RSF- districts are established to preserve

and create areas of single-family detached development. The five districts (RSF-30, RSF-20, RSF-10, RSF-6, RSF-5, and RSF-4) within the RSF- designation provide for varying development standards but generally permit the same uses. A limited number of nonresidential uses are allowed that are compatible with single-family residential uses. One of these nonresidential uses found on the same street (Atlantic Avenue) is the Savannah Arts Academy; this mural is fitting with The Savannah Arts Academy's Gallery which holds six student art exhibitions annually that are open and free to the public.

Multiple letters of support were received by staff via email and has been included on the agenda; no other neighborhood support or opposition was received. There are no other murals within this block face, allowing for proper appreciation of the mural. The scale of the after-the-fact mural is approximately 14'-0" in width and 8'-0" in height. The mural portrays a visually appropriate subject within the context of a predominantly residential neighborhood. The mural is of an original design.

The paint type was provided as being an oil-based paint and is to be weatherproofed. The weather proofing material was not provided but is stated to be adhered. The mural is proposed as having a vandalism resistant coating, however the specification for this coating is unknown to Staff. Ensure that the vandalism resistant coating is provided to Staff to keep on file.

The applicant has demonstrated the artist's abilities by providing the educational background and professional reference for the artist within the submittal.

**PETITIONER COMMENTS:**

David Nation, petitioner, stated he hopes the mural is appreciated by all. Michaela Skank, petitioner, stated they are new to the area and were not aware of the requirements. They submitted the application before the mural was completed. The artist was a senior with SCAD and also may not be aware of the requirements. They stated they received no negative feedback, but were asked if they'd received a permit. They responded they were in the process and hopeful of obtaining.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

The Board all supported the mural.

**RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends after-the-fact approval for the mural located at 435 East 50th Street with the following condition that the weatherproof/vandalism resistant coating specification is provided to Staff to keep on file, because otherwise it meets all standards set forth within the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.**

**Motion**

Staff recommends after-the-fact approval for the mural located at 435 East 50th Street with the following condition that the weatherproof/vandalism resistant coating specification is provided to Staff to keep on file, because otherwise it meets all standards set forth within the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

**Vote Results ( Approved )**

Motion: Thomas Gensheimer

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

**IV. Other Business**

[5. Add Tom Oxnard on next HSMC meeting - invite to apply to upgrade current mural](#)

**Mr. Henry** stated he felt uncomfortable with the decision of Mr. Oxnard's decision (denial); the frustration was incorrectly placed on the applicant.

**Mr. Monroe** stated he spoke with Mr. Oxnard after the meeting and realized Mr. Oxnard did not understand the process. He said he viewed the mural and said the mural was very faded.

**Mr. Geisheimer** asked if Mr. Oxnard would be amenable to redoing the mural and have it vandal and weatherproofed.

**Mr. Monroe** stated this was his suggestion to Mr. Oxnard. He stated Mr. Oxnard was frustrated yet amenable; thought Mr. Oxnard was possibly in the process of having it painted over.

**Mr. Mannion** stated this is a simple process that is not new. It is not a one-time offense of the artist. The process is to prevent blight due to deteriorated graffiti. He stands by his decision to deny Mr. Oxnard's petition and the others. He believes it to be a waste of the Board's time to revisit the Oxnard petition. The homeowner, not the artist, is the victim in the matter. The artist is fully aware of the process and yet continually defies the ordinance.

**Ms. Watson** stated she voted to deny because the added piece was close to falling off and was concerned about safety. She asked if a Facebook page or something could be used as an avenue to notify the public of the process and requirements.

**Mr. Mannion** stated we cannot continue wasting time revisiting this: the ordinance has been out for a while. The applicant has to take some sort of responsibility.

**Mr. Geisheimer** stated it is a moot point: if Mr. Oxnard wants the mural redone, he'd have to apply. It could not have been approved in the state it was in anyway.

**Mr. Monroe** stated the vote was a punitive decision, not because of its condition.

**Mr. Jarles** stated all decisions should always be based on adherence of

guidelines.

**Ms. Michalak** stated she is understanding there would be no logic in asking to reapply only to deny again because of its condition.

**Mr. Monroe** stated he would speak to Mr. Oxnard to request to revisit the mural.

**Ms. Everett** stated it is not appropriate for a Board member to reach out to the petitioner.

**Ms. Wilson** stated usually compliance is not adhered to until court action.

The Board agreed to have staff ask Mr. Oxnard to reapply for mural reapplication and protect, and request Code Enforcement to delay action.

**Ms. Wilson** suggested workshops to notify and explain the process to the public.

#### Motion

Add

#### Vote Results ( Approved )

Motion: Kristopher Monroe

Second: Sean Mannion

Thomas Gensheimer - Aye

Dr. Nicholas Henry - Abstain

Kristopher Monroe - Aye

Sean Mannion - Aye

Lisa D. Watson - Aye

## V. Adjournment

### [6. Adjourn](#)

### [7. Next Regular Meeting: September 3, 2020 at 4pm. Virtual Meeting.](#)

***The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.***